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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/576,657

10/19/2006

Bernard Kraeutler

GER0814US

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EXAMINER

RAMSEY, JEREMY C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3634

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/18/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/576,657	Applicant(s) KRAEUTLER, BERNARD	
	Examiner JEREMY C. RAMSEY	Art Unit 3634	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5,7,10,11,13-15,17,19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5,7,10,11,13-15,17,19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

The following office action is in response to the amendment filed 3/23/2010.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13-15, 17, 19 and 20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3,5,7,10,11,13-15,17,19 and 20 are rejected as set forth below.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 19 objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 19 depends from cancelled claim 18. Examiner presumes it should depend from claim 1. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 15, and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernard FR 276944 in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art and Kraeutler 6,672,360 and Carter et al 4,625,786.

3. In re claim 1, with reference to Figure 13, Bernard '944 discloses a door comprising:

- A transverse box (3).
- A curtain (7) movable between a closed and open position consisting of two parallel screens (71)(72), at least one lifting strap (5') connecting the bottom part of the curtain to a shaft (4).

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- At least one transverse stiffening means (11)(11')(12) fitted to each of the screens (71)(72).
- At least one pair of stiffening bars (11)(11') engaged in two mutually opposite sheaths (73)(74) are connected by at least one spacer (15) having an opening for the lifting strap (5') to pass through.
- At least two pairs of stiffening bars (11)(11') with spacers (15) alternate with at least one pair of stiffening bars (12) without spacers in such a way that alternate folds form when the curtain is raised.
- Each screen comprises at least two transverse panels of flexible material connected by a sheath (73)(74).
- A spacer (15) connects ends of the pair of stiffening bars (11)(11').

Bernard '944 fails to disclose:

- Two jambs wherein the side edges of each screen lie in flat continuous contact with the jambs to form an airtight lateral association between the screen and the jambs.
- The ends of the stiffening bars are fitted with guide components and guide endpieces which have a flat part oriented in the plane.
- A roller carried by a spacer that connects ends of a pair of stiffening bars and engageable between two tracks formed in the vertical jambs.

4. Applicant Admitted Prior Art discloses:

- A door comprising a transverse box joining two jambs. (page 2, lines 32-37)

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5. With reference to Figures 3 and 4, Carter et al '786 disclose:

- Two jambs (12) wherein the side edges of each screen (10) lie in flat continuous contact with the jambs to form an airtight lateral association between the screen and the jambs. (column 3, lines 60-65)

6. With reference to Figure 12, Kraeutler '360 discloses:

- The ends of the stiffening bars (30) are fitted with guide components and guide endpieces (46) which have a flat part oriented in the plane of the screen.
- A roller (58) carried by a spacer (51) that connects ends of a pair of stiffening bars engageable between two tracks formed in the vertical jambs. (Figure 11 teaches the spacer that connects the two bars, and Figure 12 teaches a roller is used. Column 6, lines 35-40 teach that the guide peg (52) of Figure 11 is interchangeable with the roller (58) of Figure 12)

7. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, to include a pair of jambs joining the transverse box as taught by Applicant Admitted Prior Art, since this is an old and well known feature in the art.

8. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include guide components and guide endpieces with a roller between the tracks as taught by Kraeutler '360 in order to guide bar and edge of the curtain accurately (column 5, lines 52-63)

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9. It further would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to make the edges of the screen be in continuous contact with the jamb as taught by Carter et al '786 in order to form an airtight seal to help with energy conservation. (column 1, lines 9-13 and 34-37)

10. In re claims 2,3, 5, 11, 15 and 20, with reference to Figures 14 and 15, Bernard '944 discloses:

- A sheath (73)(74)(75)(76) formed in each screen (71)(72) in which a stiffening means (11)(11')(12) is engaged.
- The sheaths are opposite each other.
- The spacer (15) has an opening for the lifting strap (5') to pass through.
- Wherein a flexible bar (8) is held in the connecting fold (10) of the two screens and a lower pair of bars (11)(11') with spaces and a succeeding pair of bars (12) without spaces are at distances such that the bar projects beyond the folds formed. (Figure 14)
- The curtain (7) is made from a single component of flexible material folded on itself to form two screens (71)(72).
- A cable (5') is engaged in at least one sheath (73)(74) whose ends are guided relative to the jambs.

11. In re claims 17-19 Bernard '944 as modified by Kraeutler '360 discloses:

- The ends of the stiffening bars (30) are fitted with guide components and guide endpieces (46) which have a flat part oriented in the plane of the screen.

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- The endpiece (46) being contained within the screen. (When applied to Bernard '944, the stiffening bars (8) of Bernard are within the screen and the endpiece (46) as taught by Kraeutler fits within the stiffening bar. Therefore the endpiece would be contained within the screen.)
- Two filler endpieces (53)(54) engaged on the end of the bar (30), the two tracks being engageable between the two endpieces, and the airtight lateral association being formed via the engagement of the two tracks between the two endpieces. (column 6, lines 3-9)

12. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernard FR 276944 , Applicant Admitted Prior Art, Kraeutler 6,672,360 and Carter et al 4,625,786 as applied to claims 1-3 and 5 and further in view of Kraeutler 5,207,256.

13. In re claim 7, the door of Bernard/Admitted Prior Art/Kraeutler/Carter et al has been discussed above but fails to disclose:

- Wherein the bottom part of the curtain contains a flexible component consisting of a flexible sleeve enclosing a flexible material.

14. With reference to Figure 4, Kraeutler '256 discloses:

- Wherein the bottom part of the curtain contains a flexible component consisting of a flexible sleeve (unnumbered) enclosing a flexible material (50).

15. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a flexible sleeve enclosing a flexible material as taught

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by Kraeutler '256 in order to provide stiffness to the curtain but prevent injury or damage to people if they curtain is lowered too quickly and falls on them. (column 1, lines 28-37)

16. Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernard FR 276944 and Applicant Admitted Prior Art and Kraeutler 6,672,360 as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Kraeutler 5,141,043.

17. In re claim 10, the door of Bernard/Admitted Prior Art has been discussed above but fails to disclose:

- Wherein the stiffening bars have the flexibility to absorb impact and come away from the tracks without suffering deformation.

18. Kraeutler '043 discloses:

- Wherein the stiffening bars have the flexibility to absorb impact and come away from the tracks without suffering deformation. (column 1, lines 62-68 and column 2, lines 1-6)

19. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the stiffening bars to have the flexibility to absorb impact and come away from the tracks as taught by Kraeutler '043 prevent the possibility of impeding subsequent operation of the curtain. (column 2, lines 4-6)

20. In re claim 11, Bernard '944 discloses:

- Wherein when the curtain is in the raised positions the flexible bar projects beyond the folds formed by each folded screen.

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21. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernard FR 276944 and Applicant Admitted Prior Art and Kraeutler 6,672,360 as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Coenraets 6,119,758.

22. In re claim 13, the door of Bernard/Admitted Prior Art/Kraeutler has been discussed above but fails to disclose:

- At least one transverse panel made of transparent material at the same height in each screen.

23. With reference to Figure 1, Coenraets '758 discloses:

- At least one transverse panel (38) made of transparent material.

24. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include at least one transverse panel made of transparent material at the same height in each screen as taught by Coenraets '758 in order to serve as windows. (column 4, lines 27-31)

25. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernard FR 276944, Applicant Admitted Prior Art and Kraeutler 6,672,360 as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Yana JP 2002142967.

26. In re claim 14, the door of Bernard/Admitted Prior Art/Kraeutler has been discussed above, but fails to disclose:

- Each screen is provided with at least one shape-memory folding means capable of forming an outward fold in the curtain.

27. Yana '967 discloses:

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- At least one shape-memory folding means capable of forming an outward fold in the curtain.

28. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a shape-memory folding means as taught by Yana '967 in order to allow the curtain to be easily folded when necessary. (Derwent Abstract)

Response to Arguments

29. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10-11, 13-15 and 18-20 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

30. In response to applicant's argument that Bernard or Kraeutler do not teach a spacer that connects ends of a pair of stiffening bars and carries a roller, the examiner respectfully disagrees. As shown in the rejection of claim 1 above, Kraeutler teaches a spacer that connects the ends of stiffening bars and carries a roller. As shown in the rejection of claim 19, the combination of Bernard and Kraeutler teach two filler endpieces engaged in the end of stiffening bars and two tracks between the endpieces creating an airtight lateral association

31. The combination of Bernard and Kraeutler teaches the claimed limitations, and one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would recognize the benefits of modifying one with the other. Although Bernard does not explicitly teach jambs, it is common knowledge that doors are to be used within jambs. Furthermore, Kraeutler teaches using the guide and roller within a jamb to create a seal, therefore the motivation to combine the teaching of Kraeutler would be present in order to provide a sealing feature..

Conclusion

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell can be reached on 571-272-7069. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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